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Armchair Tour of the University of Washington Law Library

Marian G. Gallagher

University of Washington School of Law

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ARMCHAIR TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LAW LIBRARY

MARIAN G. GALLAGHER

Bibliomania is a rare disease. Contrary to popular belief, the germ breeds, not on ancient vellum bookbindings, but on the inside pages of hard-to-locate, bound or unbound, published or unpublished, material. Consequently, the infection is not apt to spread to the practicing attorney who has too many clients and too many cases for a seven-day week. While it may be the secret hope of every librarian that years of exposure (to the bindings when help is scarce, to the inside pages when help is plentiful) will cause him to become infected, he does not lose sight of the fact that the rate of immunity among lawyers is extremely high. He knows that as a class they are more interested in having Shepard's citator and the Washington advance sheets within reach than in examining a book of which there are only two other extant copies.

Recent displays of amazement by attorneys who have visited the University of Washington Law Library, lead us to suspect that the local bar is not as well informed about our facilities as it might be. Of course the best remedy for this is a tour of the library; the next best, and seemingly more practical, is a short report with information as its object, coupled with an invitation to the bar to test its truth. This is not the place for an historical account. As a general rule, a librarian's "History of the Library" is, like the sex of the zoo's youngest rhinoceros, of interest only to another rhinoceros. But the comparative position of a library, in terms of size, is a measurement that can mean something concrete to its potential patrons. The University law library, with approximately 101,500 bound volumes, is outranked by only three libraries west of the Mississippi.¹ Among law school libraries in the west, it holds first place, and ranks 10th in the nation.² This, we believe, is cause for some pride. Yet it is of less importance than the type of services we are able to offer to our faculty, students, and members of the legal profession.

One of our unique features is the attorneys' room: a pleasant, quiet room which is in effect a useful library in itself, designed especially for the use of members of the bar. Its walls are lined with current editions of the leading texts on the laws of trial practice, admiralty, bankruptcy, security transactions, property, taxation, administrative law, etc. In addition, the collection boasts sets of the Washington reports, American and Pacific digests, current Washington codes, Washington citator, U.S.C.A., Corpus Juris and C.J.S., and California and Texas jurispru-

¹Los Angeles County Law Library, the San Francisco Bar Library, and the Iowa State Law Library at Des Moines.

²Law schools with larger libraries are: Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Northwestern, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale.

dence. A simple subject list in the room itself makes the books in any field quickly available; selected works of interest to the practitioner are also included on the list, with the indication that they can be obtained a few steps away with the help of the attendants in the main reading room. Of this selection, perhaps the most useful group is the loose-leaf services. We are now subscribing to seven different federal and one state tax services, two services dealing with reconversion and termination of war contracts, two labor law, two insurance, and two federal administrative procedure services. Also available are services dealing with the law of chattel mortgages and conditional sales, federal carriers, price and manpower control, trade regulation, trusts and estates, unemployment insurance, and the rules of federal procedure. Looseleaf services are becoming more and more important as a source of current law. We are completely sold on their utility; yet with their increasing usefulness comes an increasing burden on our budget. Therefore we welcome their frequent use by attorneys as additional justification for their continuation in the library.

Lest this concentration on the attorney's collection lead to the suspicion that attorneys are confined to the resources of one room: the facilities of the entire library are of course at their disposal. The main reading room, one of the most beautiful in the country, is quiet, useful and commodious as well as pleasing to the eye. The law student who presides there can furnish an attorney with any legal periodical published in the English language, as well as many of those of South America and some of the leading French and German ones; all published reports of the courts of last resort in the United States and Canada, and almost complete collections of the reports of Great Britain, Scotland, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Also available are the briefs and appeal papers for cases in the Supreme Court of the United States since 1936, a file of Washington Supreme Court briefs that is surpassed only by the set in the Temple of Justice in Olympia, the current codes and session laws of every state and territory and of the British Empire, and a fine collection of the earlier session laws and codes.

It is not practicable, in a short report, to list every type of law book in our library. Many of our most frequently used books are too commonplace to deserve mention; some of the books of which we are most proud are infrequently requested.³ In view of the inadvisability of presenting a complete list, suffice it to say that the library's collection,

³In this class, until recently, was our Japanese collection. Part of it is now on loan to the Office of Strategic Services, for use in the administration of the government of Japan. An O. S. S. official recently appraised it as the best on the coast, and the best in the nation from the standpoint of its up-to-dateness. Cataloging of the collection has been handicapped by our library staff's inability to read a word of Japanese; however, with the assistance of the Far Eastern Department of the University and the O. S. S., that work is nearing completion.

acquired with the needs of the bar as one of the guides, is well-balanced to the degree where we are seldom embarrassed by inability to grant an attorney's request.

In the granting of those requests, we know of no library that is more liberal. Unless a book is known to be irreplaceable, we are glad to send it to out-of-town attorneys for two weeks, with the privilege of renewal. Hard-to-replace books are frequently loaned, on the theory that a law book taken to court, or used where it is most convenient for the attorney, is infinitely more valuable than when sitting in its proper place on the library shelf. Requests for loans may be made by mail or by phone; and while the present help situation does not allow us to do extensive briefing, we are glad to search for material for an attorney who has a particular problem rather than a specific volume in mind.

APPENDIX

Unfamiliar even to many veteran users of the library, is an extensive collection of reports of trials, ancient and modern. For the attorney who likes murder stories, yet conceals their lurid covers from the junior member of the firm, we offer a wide selection in staid and Coke-ish-looking bindings. The junior member himself will find some excellent in-bed reading in the same collection. The following titles, selected at random, are specimens presented as evidence of the nature of the whole:

APFEL, ALFRED.

Behind the scenes of German justice; reminiscences of a German barrister, 1882-1933. London, 1935. 172p.

BEATTIE, HENRY CLAY, defendant.

A full and complete history of the Great Beattie case. History of the lives of Henry Clay Beattie and Beulah Binford, "the woman in the case," with many facts not before published. Illustrated. Baltimore, 1911. 128p.

BENSON, L.

The book of remarkable trials and notorious characters. From "Half-hanged Smith", 1700, to Oxford who shot at the Queen, 1840. With numerous illustrations by Phiz. London, 1871. 545p.

BORCHARD, EDWIN MONTEFIORE.

Convicting the innocent; errors of criminal justice. New Haven, 1932. 421p.

BURKE, THOMAS F., defendant.

"The Fenian conspiracy." Report of the trials of Burke and others, for high treason. Dublin, 1869. 1083p.

BURR, AARON, defendant.

The trial of Aaron Burr for high treason; comprising all the evidence and the opinions of the court upon all motions made in the various stages of the case, with abstracts of arguments of counsel; to which is added an account of the subsequent proceedings against Burr, Blennerhassett and Smith in the same court. Washington, 1864. 392p.

CHARLES THE FIRST.

The indictment, arraignment, tryal and judgment of 29 regicides, the murderers of King Charles I of glorious memory . . . their speeches . . . with the characters and answers to the tenets of the several persons executed. London, 1724.

CHARNOCK, ROBERT, defendant.

The tryals and condemnation of Robert Charnock, Edward King, and Thomas Keyey, for the horrid and execrable conspiracy to assassinate His Sacred Majesty, King William, in order to aid a French invasion

- of this kingdom. Who upon full evidence were found guilty of high-treason, at the sessions-house in Old Bailey, March 11, 1695/6. Together with a true copy of the papers delivered by them to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex at the time of their execution. London, 1696. 79p.
- DE WOLF, ORRIN, defendant.
Warning to the young. Trial of Orrin de Wolf for the murder of William Stiles at Worcester, including his confession. Worcester, 1845. 16p.
- DIMSDALE, THOMAS J.
The vigilantes of Montana or popular justice in the Rocky Mountains; narrative of the chase, capture, trial and execution of Henry Plummer, road agent, Virginia City, 1921. 276p.
- DUKE, WINIFRED.
Six trials. London, 1934. 287p.
(Contents: A medical miscreant; the perfect murder; the riddle of Rumsey House; the double acquittal; the farmer's wife; Rex versus Robert Wood.)
- DURANTY, WALTER.
The curious lottery, and other tales of Russian justice. New York, 1929.
- HANNAY, JAMES OWEN.
Murder most foul. A gallery of famous criminals, by George A. Birmingham (pseud.). London, 1929. 848p.
- HUMPHREYS, ALEXANDER, defendant.
Report of the trial of Alexander Humphreys or Alexander, claiming the title of Earl of Stirling, before the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, for the crime of forgery. With an appendix containing the whole documentary evidence. By Archibald Swinton. Edinburgh, 1839. 464p.
- GILMAN, WINTHROP S., defendant.
Alton trials of Winthrop S. Gilman, who was indicted with others for the crime of riot, committed on the night of the 7th of November, 1837, while engaged in defending a printing press from an attack made on it at that time by an armed mob. New York, 1838. 158p.
- MAYER, DECASTO EARL, defendant.
The Bassett case. Trial of Mayer and Smith, 1928-1939. Compiled by the University of Washington Law Library. With a statement by Ewing D. Colvin, King County prosecutor. Seattle, 1939. 66p. (Typewritten, collected newspaper clippings.)
- MILLAR, ALEXANDER HASTIE.
The black kalendar of Scotland; records of notable Scottish trials. With illustrations. Dundee and London, 1884. 138p.
- OTES, ETC.
A collection of 14 trials by Titus Otes containing a true narrative of the horrid plot and conspiracy of the popish party against the life of His Sacred Majesty, the government, and the Protestant religion. London, 1679. Folio.
- PAGET, JOHN.
Judicial puzzles. Gathered from the state trials. San Francisco, 1877. 155p.
- PARRY, LEONARD ARTHUR.
Some famous medical trials. New York, 1928. 326p.
- SANDERSON, EDGAR.
Judicial crimes: a record of some famous trials in English history in which bigotry, popular panic, and political rancour played a leading part. London, 1902. 263p.
- SMITH, WILLIAM STEPHENS, defendant.
The trials of W. S. Smith, and Samuel G. Ogden, for misdemeanors, had in the Circuit Court of the United States for the New York District, 1806. (Charged with beginning and with setting on foot a military expedition in the city of New York against the territories of the King of Spain, in South America, when the United States and Spain were at peace.) New York, 1807. 287p.

TRIAL OF THE 12 SPANISH PIRATES OF THE SCHOONER PANDA, A GUINEA SLAVER.
Boston, 1834. 80p.

TIRRELL, ALBERT J., defendant.

The trial of Tirrell, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maria A. Bickford. Illustrated. (Defense of somnambulism, presented by Rufus Choate, resulted in acquittal.) Boston, n.d. 32p.

TWITCHELL, GEORGE S., defendant.

The trial and conviction of Twitchell for the murder of his mother-in-law. Illustrated. Philadelphia, 1868. 106p.

VOSBURGH, GEORGE B., defendant.

The trial of Rev. Geo. B. Vosburgh, pastor of the Bergen Baptist Church, Jersey City, for alleged wife poisoning. Rev. and cor. from the reports published by the Jersey City Evening Journal. Jersey City, 1878. 140p.

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

CORWIN, EDWARD S., Ph.B., 1900, University of Michigan; Ph.D., 1905, University of Pennsylvania; LL.D., 1925, University of Michigan; Litt.D., 1936, Harvard University. Professor of Politics, 1911-18, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence since 1918, Princeton University; Walker-Ames Professor of Political Science, summer 1945, University of Washington. Author of numerous legal treatises and articles on Constitutional Law and other legal subjects.

LUCCOCK, EUGENE C., B.A., 1912, Washington and Jefferson College; LL.B., 1915, University of Pittsburgh; practicing attorney in Seattle from 1915 until his retirement in 1935, at which time he was a member of the firm of Todd, Holman and Sprague; LL.M., 1936, Stanford University; University of Washington Law Faculty, 1937 until his death on January 17, 1943. His article appearing in this issue of the University of Washington Law Review was written while he was a member of the faculty of the University of Washington Law School. Permission has been kindly granted by Mr. Luccock's family to publish this article in the form in which it was originally written.

GALLAGHER, MARIAN G., BA., 1935, University of Washington; LL.B., 1937, University of Washington; Circulation Librarian, 1937-39, University of Washington; Law Librarian, 1939-44, University of Utah; Law Librarian, since 1944, University of Washington.